

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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If the promised submarine boat to be operated by one man and run at a speed of forty-five knots answers to its prospectus, the sooner Congress drops battleship construction and builds a thousand of these destroyers the better for the defense of the seaboard.

According to the Chronicle the Episcopal body of California is about to convene to take over the possessions of the Anglican Church in Hawaii, as per engagement with Bishop Willis. Fancy the sensation of the reverend clergy when they reach out for the princely gift only to see it jerked back by an unexpected string and to hear an ecclesiastical ha-ha from the shades of Iolani College.

It suits the organ of the tax-lifters to sneer at Delegate Wilcox's influence over municipal legislation, but the sneer cannot affect its readers. They know, if the tax-lifting organ does not, that one blast upon the Wilcox bugle horn is worth a thousand men. When the Delegate tells the Independent Legislature to go slow and warns the Hawaiian small proprietors that the huge cost of a municipality would fall most heavily on them, he gives the scheme of plunder the hardest blow it has yet received. After this we shall look for very little enthusiasm among the natives for a tax-crushed Honolulu.

Italian correspondents have much to say about the attitude of the Papacy towards Father Zahn's book propounding the Darwinian theory of evolution. When an Italian translation came out, the Congregation of the Index prepared a decree against it; but at the Pope's request the decree was never published and for months past Father Zahn's book has had free circulation in Italy. If this means, as would seem to be the case, an overt acceptance of evolution in Rome, the consequences will be watched with an interest as wide as the Christian world. Theology will miss old friends if Adam and Eve have gone for good.

It is no more than right that Lord Hobson should have some conspicuous reward for the risks he took at Saridago. His act was every whit as brave as Cushing's and its brilliancy is not dimmed by Hobson's acceptance of promiscuous kisses afterwards. Lord Nelson was prone to kisses and we have known Admirals, in port at Honolulu, who would not have flinched from a broadside of them. The memory of Admiral Brown's osculatory engagement when the native ladies gave him a hokopu on board the Charleston still survives as a sweet and clinging reminiscence. Hobson but followed the traditions of the service and ought not to be punished for that.

The advent of the North German Lloyd company upon the trade routes of the Pacific ocean was foreshadowed two years ago and may be realized soon. The North German Lloyd, as most of our readers know, is one of the greatest steamship lines in the world. The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse and the Deutschland are the queens of its fleet and other sea-sovereigns are building. China's opening and the German establishment in Shantung account in the main for the present enterprise and are a sign of what may follow in case the sea coast of the great Asiatic empire passes permanently into European hands. It is not too much to expect that, in the course of a couple of years, if not sooner, Honolulu will have a mail steamer or transport at its wharves every two or three days.

The interesting republic which the Russian troops found in the fastnesses of Manchuria is described by the London Daily News. It has existed for half a century all unknown to Europe and to most white men in the Far East. The republic is situated near Girin or Kirin, in the basin of the Sungari. It is called Cha-Pi-Goo and has grown in population from 10,000 souls to 100,000. In the beginning this Chinese Switzerland was ruled by a board of three headmen, but a politician named Chan Yui Poo seized the Presidency, levied taxes, established courts and created trade guilds. A descendant of his now occupies the executive post. When the Russians invaded Manchuria the little army of the republic turned out and made a better fight than did the Chinese imperial troops.

The Kaiser never loses a chance to put an obstacle in the path of anything Uncle Sam is chasing. His latest venture of that sort may interfere with the success of the plan to get the promised indemnity from Turkey. Hearing that America is to be paid through a contract with the Krupps, the Kaiser has demanded that the Porte shall first settle with the Krupps for naval guns supplied after the Graco-Turkish war. It may be remembered that the gun purchase was fairly forced on Turkey as the price of Germany's moral support in the contest with the Greeks. As a matter of courtesy the Kaiser might have waited until the United States had finished its business before intruding, but courtesy is the last thing that bumptious young potentate thinks of when dealing with the Washington government.

The Peking correspondent of the London Morning Post pays a marked tribute to the success of the American system of local government in Peking. So far as we know that system is simply justice to the natives, giving them their natural rights and protecting them from the criminal classes, inclusive of the mandarins who were wont to live on their earnings. The writer, while in garrison with the Japanese at Kinchow, Liaotung peninsula, during the war of 1894-5, saw the good effects of this method as practiced by the invaders. Kinchow was perfectly governed through the agency of a court, the justice of which was that of Solomon, and with the help of a considerable police that arrested a Japanese trespasser as readily as a Chinese thief. It did not take long for the inhabitants of Kinchow to convince themselves that their conquerors were their best friends and to memorialize them to stay forever. Perhaps we shall witness a similar phenomenon in the American quarter of Peking.

SHALL THE LEPERS GO?

The proposal to have a national leper settlement in the Philippines, to accommodate the thirty thousand victims of the plague who live there, will probably be realized if the United States retains the group. It is out of the question anywhere on American soil to permit lepers to have free range, and the Philippines, with their multitude of the unclean, make no exception to the rule. Fortunately the number of lepers in the Spanish islands is so large that they cannot be sent to Molokai; and it may be that Congress, on that account, will conclude to amend the Kahn bill so as to put the proposed national reservation somewhere in the Vazayas. That would be the nearest point to the greater source of supply; and it would be as easy to ship Mainland lepers there from San Francisco as here, seeing that steamers will be running direct so long as American jurisdiction lasts—and that, we shall assume, means forever.

In this connection there arises a topic of local interest apart from the chance to escape the effects of the Kahn bill. Should the United States Government make itself the warden of all lepers under the flag, those of Hawaii would be included and they would have to go where the others went. The question is, Do we want to lose them? There are hundreds of Island people to say "no"—kinsmen, compatriots, philanthropists; but thousands would as quickly answer "yes."

Speaking on broad lines of public policy the fewer lepers we keep in Hawaii the better. They give the place a bad name. To tens of thousands of strangers Hawaii is not the Paradise of the Pacific but the Land of Lepers. "Do we want leprosy and loot?" demanded the New York World over and over again while it made its campaign against annexation; and the alliterative phrase went from mouth to mouth among its million readers, and was echoed in its thousands of exchanges until the opinion that leprosy is everywhere under foot in Hawaii is almost as common as the other false idea that our field hands are slaves scourged daily to their tasks. No one knows the revenue Hawaii has lost from tourists and home-seekers who, but for fear of leprosy, would have come here; no one knows what revenue may yet be lost.

The expense of keeping up the settlement on Molokai is no light thing. From the money of the taxpayers something like \$180,000 per year are taken; a sum that is sadly needed for roads and other public utilities. Hawaii had rather pay the \$180,000 for indefinite years to come than to have the Federal Government take charge at Molokai and make a national detention camp there; but a proposal to put such a camp in the Philippines and transport our lepers and give them the comforts and care which the nation would, in the abundance of its means provide, raises a different feeling. Thousands must say, "Let them go by all means and the sooner the better."

While our local settlement lasts there will be the danger that a native Legislature, moved by the irrational impulse which led some of the stump speakers of the Wilcox party last fall to declare against segregation, may set the lepers free. There is the other danger that the United States might conclude to take Molokai over as a sort of testing place, midway between California and the Philippines. For these reasons, if a Philippine leper colony is formed, Hawaii would do well to urge the government to take our wards under its wing, and in case of that being done, to wipe out every vestige of the present settlement and as soon as possible get the site into private hands.

We admit the hardship. But the interests of the many rise superior to the misfortunes of the few. It is the true object of government to secure the greatest good to the greatest number and not be deterred from that by sentimental appeals. The welfare of Hawaii as a whole demands that advantage shall be taken of any legitimate means of disassociating the idea of leprosy from the sanitary reputation of this group.

PROTECT THE FISH.

The steps taken yesterday to form a society for the protection of the Island fisheries will result in bills that the Legislature ought, in the interests of the public welfare, to pass. There is a certain prejudice among native Hawaiians against any limitation being put upon the industry of fishing; but it is one which, we think, can be dispelled by arguments based on certain circumstances which the Hawaiians know to exist but may not now understand.

The Hawaiian of the poorer class objects to protective laws because he wants plenty of fish to eat. But, as he should be taught, that is precisely the reason why such laws should be enacted. Fish are getting scarcer and dearer and unless something is done to save their young from the mosquito-mesh net, they will become the luxury of the rich, while the native will have to go without. To make an abundant supply of fish the little ones must have a chance to grow. They come into the shallow waters at a certain time of the year to escape their deep-sea enemies and get a show for their lives. If left alone they will, in a few months, grow big enough to adorn a platter; but in running away from the voracious foragers of the ocean they encounter more dangerous monsters in the small mesh net. These nets are placed at the mouths of all the streams and estuaries and they capture indefinite swarms of ocean minnows. Natives and Japanese like to eat such dainties; so indeed do white people who find in them a substitute for the white bait of Greenwich and the "small fry" of San Francisco. Nevertheless it is taking a bite and destroying a prospective pound or three pounds; and the practice kept up indefinitely naturally results in the extinction of our fisheries. Hawaiian fishing banks are few; they team with sharks and other finny pirates; and between these enemies and the destructive nets, the cleaning out of our food fish resources becomes only a matter of time.

The Legislature will have within its power the chance to make mullet and other piscatory edibles so plentiful and cheap that any native, however poor, may have his fill. A million would be a low estimate of the number of good fish that might be saved for use in the latter part of 1901 by a suspension of fishing with small-mesh nets during next month and the two months following. Perhaps ten million small fry might be saved. There seems to be no way of estimating the myriads of little fish which appear in the bays during March and which are raided upon day and night by a multitude of fish-seekers. They are beyond computation. But how much better it would be for the public if these multitudes were allowed to grow. It takes five hundred of them now to make a pound; if left alone each of them that survived the voracity of other fish would weigh that much in nine months' time. See how quickly this would repopulate the sea banks and reward the fishermen!

To pass a law prohibiting the small-mesh net would be, therefore, an important legislative service to the common people. It might fairly be supplemented by an Act, such as Secretary Cooper suggests, creating a fish hatchery on the plan of that which, in California, keeps the trout streams of that state full of speckled beauties. Two years ago, while in the wilds of Shasta county, the writer asked a pioneer if fishing had been better in the old days. "Not half so good," he said. "Owing to the hatchery there are ten trout now where there used to be one." A visit to the Seasons hatchery followed. Six million minnows were there ready to be distributed. They occupied small troughs or boxes, in a frame building

and were of the size of a pin up to that of a cigarette. "What proportion of the spawn hatches out?" we asked. "Over ninety per cent of it results in fish that we save and distribute," was the reply. "And what proportion of the spawn deposited in the mountain streams survives?" "Not one per cent," was the surprising answer of a scientist whose word invoked no doubt. Ten thousand dollars ought to build a small hatchery and provide for its care. With such an institution, and a small-mesh law besides, it could not be long before the pathetic spectacle of a native taking a three-ounce fish from the market to his family would be dispelled; and he would go with his hands full of fat mullet as of old.

There are several mail sacks at the postoffice full of Holiday Advertisers addressed to Eastern points which are held back because of insufficient postage. Some of them carry one-cent stamps and others the two-cent variety, where three-cent stamps are required. These papers will not leave Honolulu until full postage has been paid.

NEWS OF WORLD CONDENSED

There is but little yellow fever in Havana.

Germany has a coal syndicate trust on hand.

There is but one Jewess in British prisons.

Prof. Thos. A. Williams, the eminent botanist, is dead.

Hall Caine, the author, has gone to Rome for the winter.

There is very little hope that Mrs. Maybrick will be pardoned.

An Ohio jeweler recently won a \$50,000 estate on a \$1 raffle ticket.

Mrs. Pearl Craigie has been asked to write the life of Beaconsfield.

The influenza epidemic in St. Petersburg is causing many deaths.

A Seattle man is on trial under the novel charge of stealing a church.

The girl "Santa Claus" died of her burns in New York, December 22.

There are thirty Senatorial seats to be filled for the next term of Congress.

Herbert Daniels of Valentine, Neb., had skin taken from his neck to make a new ear.

An association for the handling of Southern California oil is being organized.

Controller Dawes has announced himself a candidate to succeed Senator Mason.

General Frey has forwarded to Marselles another installment of loot from China.

Southern California Teachers' Association will demand the best of State text books.

The Commission has taken steps to extend the rule of civil law in the Philippines.

The Canadian Pacific will open a school in Winnipeg for the teaching of shorthand and telegraphy to its junior employees.

George D. Melkjohn, Assistant Secretary of War, is after the Nebraska Senatorship.

A great religious revival, 100,000 ministers strong, will crusade for Christianity this year.

The scrippers of California will fight Senator Perkins' bill regarding patenting oil lands.

William Wallace Campbell has been appointed the new director of Lick Observatory.

A miner in Butte, Montana, was found dead on his feet and partly frozen on the 22d instant.

A mining exposition will be held in Spokane, Washington, from June to November, 1902.

A Los Angeles maniac murdered his aged mother and the man who worked on her ranch.

The Dalton City (Ill.) Bank was robbed of between \$5,000 and \$4,000 on the night of December 22.

Twenty-seven women in Western Australia are hunting the kangaroo as a professional business.

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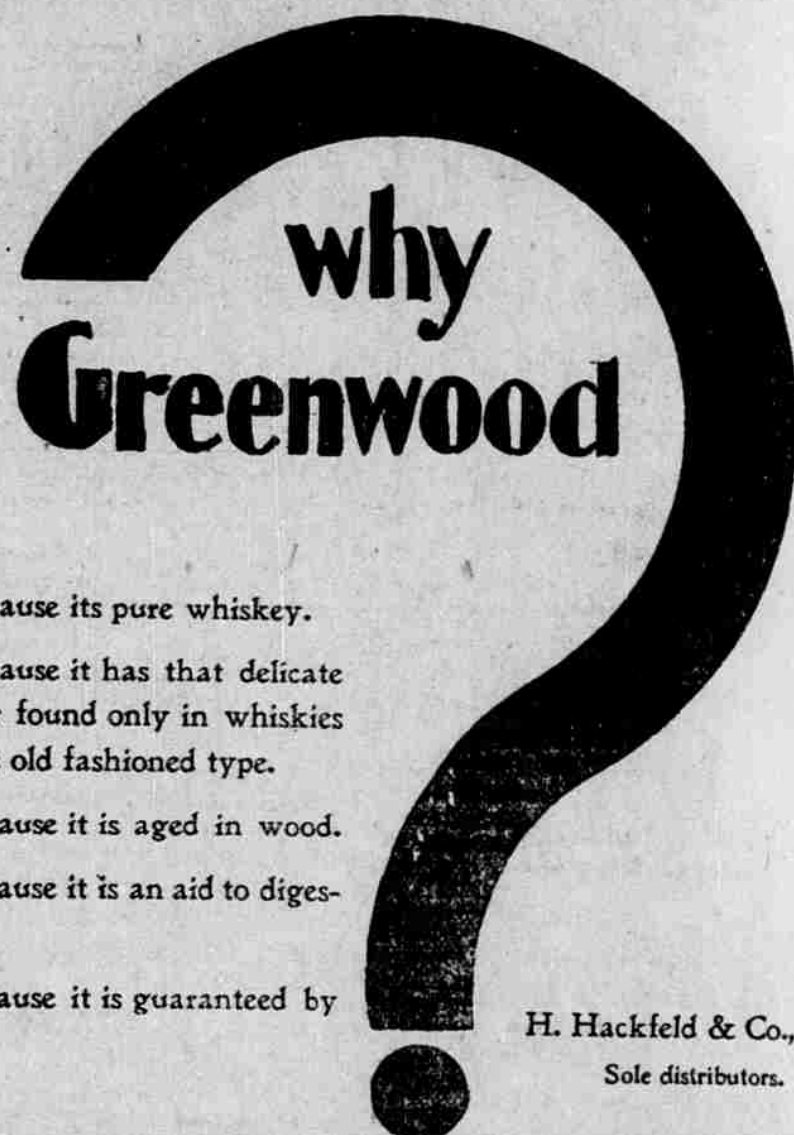
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